

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
24 June 2004 (24.06.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2004/054283 A2

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: H04Q 7/00

RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR,  
TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IB2003/005517

(22) International Filing Date:  
27 November 2003 (27.11.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/432,534 11 December 2002 (11.12.2002) US

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,  
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE,  
GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR,  
KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK,  
MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT,

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,  
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,  
SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,  
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

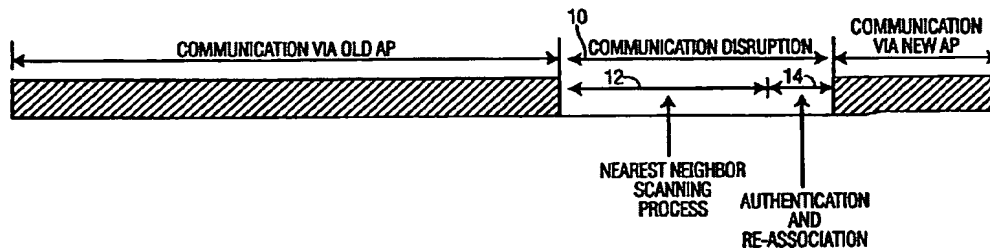
— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted  
a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE,  
AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH,  
CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES,  
FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG,  
MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT,  
RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT,  
TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent  
(BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ,  
TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK,  
EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,  
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,  
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

**Published:**

— without international search report and to be republished  
upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING A FAST HANDOFF IN A WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORK



(57) **Abstract:** Disclosed is a system and method for performing a fast channel scan so as to minimize the communication disruption period (10) which occurs during a handoff of a mobile station (STA) (20-23) in a wireless local area network (WLAN) (100). Each mobile station (STA) includes an associated nearest-neighbor table identifying nearest-neighbor APs (14-16) in the network to the AP with which the STA is currently associated. When a STA (20-23) performs a handoff, its nearest-neighbor table is used to perform a prioritized search of those channels of operation included in the table belonging to nearest-neighbor APs (14-16). In this manner, by prioritizing the search to first search the channels of operation belonging to nearest-neighbor APs (14-16), there is a greater likelihood of locating a candidate ap (14-16) to form an association with in less time as compared with the prior art search method of blindly searching each and every operating channel in the network.

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